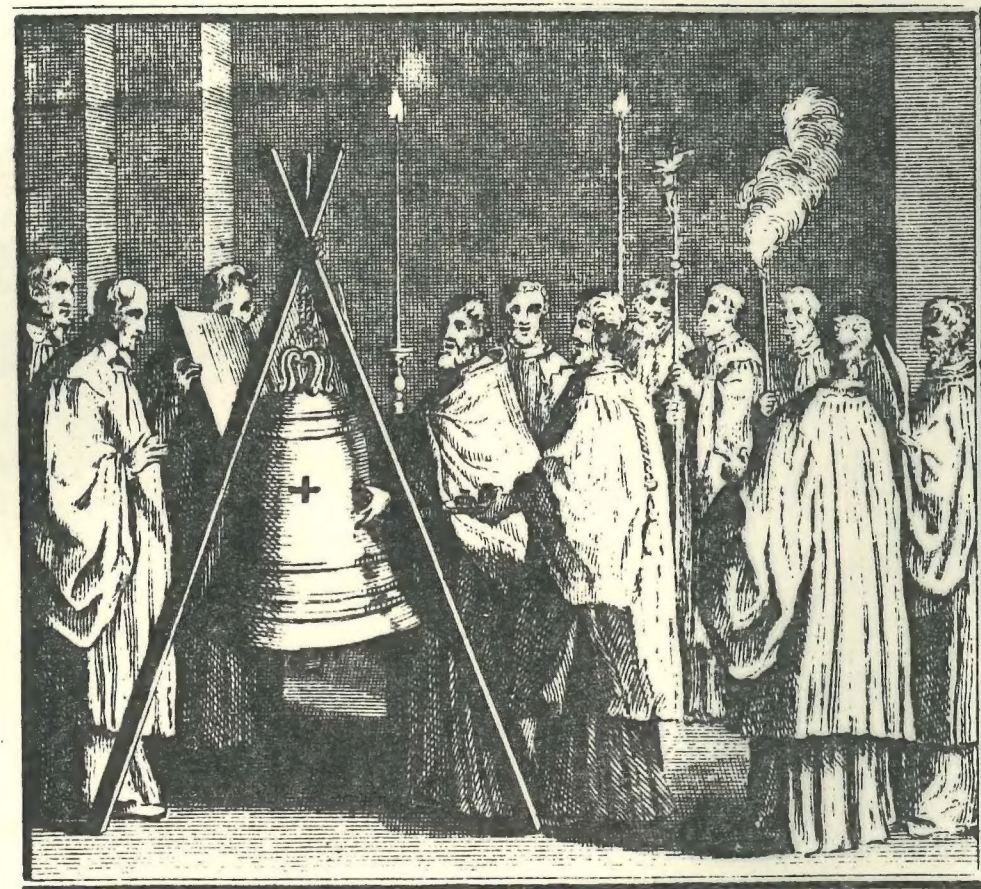




SAINT CLEMENT'S CHURCH

2013 APPLETREE STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103 - (215) 563-1876

S. Clement's Church Philadelphia



SOLEMN BLESSING & CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH BELLS

S. Matthew's Day

21 SEPTEMBER 1985

11 o'clock

BLESSING OF THE WATER

V. Our help is in the Name of the Lord.
R. Who hath made heaven and earth.
V. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.
R. From henceforth for evermore.
V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

BLESS + O Lord, this water with thy heavenly benediction and pour upon it the assistance of thy most Holy Spirit, that when these bells, prepared to summon the Children of thy Church, are washed therein, every place wherein their voices may sound might be defended from every power of the enemy, from every shadow of evil spirits, from every onslaught of storm, from every striking of lightning, from every attack of thunder and from every calamity of wind and tempest. Grant that when the Christian people hear them their devotion may increase and hastening to their Mother, Holy Church, they may rejoice in the sound of the trumpet, sing with the sweetness of psalmody, exalt with the music of the organ, and rejoice with the timbrels and brasses, that all nations called to thy Holy Temple may be strengthened in their prayers and praises by the hosts of the holy Angels. Through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The bells are sprinkled and then washed with the blessed water, meanwhile the Cantors sing Psalms 146 &c.

The bells are marked on the upper surface with the Sign of the Cross using the Oil of the Sick. Then is said:

Let us pray.

O GOD, who didst command Moses, thy servant and lawgiver, to fashion silver trumpets, whose sweet sounds should tell thy people to prepare for thy worship and assemble for its celebration: Grant, we beseech thee, that these bells, prepared for thy Church, may through our lowly ministry be sanctified + by thy Holy Spirit, that their ringing may invite the faithful to the House of God and to everlasting rewards. May piety wax stronger in thy servants as often as they hear their melodious peals. At their sound let evil spirits fly in terror, let thunder and lightning, hail and storm be banished, let the power of thy hand crush the powers of the air, that, hearing the sounding bells, they may tremble and vanish at the Sign of the Cross marked thereon. This may the Lord himself grant, who overcoming death by the Cross, reigneth in the glory of God the Father, in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

ANointing OF THE BELLS

The bells are anointed, on the exterior with the Oil of the Sick and on the interior with the Holy Chrism. At each anointing is said:

May this bell be hallowed + and consecrated, O Lord, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, in Honour of Saint _____. *Amen.*

*During the anointing, the Cantors sing the Antiphon: The Voice of the Lord is mighty in operation; * The Voice of the Lord is a glorious voice. and Psalm 29.*

Then is said:

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who madest the walls of the fortress of thine enemies to fall at the sound of the trumpets before the Ark of the Covenant, pour forth thy heavenly benediction upon these bells, that at their peal may be driven afar the burning darts of our enemy, the striking of lightning and the perils of tempest, so that with the prophet we may say "What aileth thee, O sea, that thou fleddest and thou Jordan that thou wast driven back" and like him reply, "Tremble, thou earth, at the power of the Lord: at the presence of the God of Jacob: Who turned the hard rock into a standing water and the flint stone into a springing well: Not unto us, O Lord, Not unto us,

but unto thy Name give the praise, for thy loving mercy and for thy truth's sake." Grant, that as these bells and all the vessels of thy Altar are signed with the Holy Chrism and anointed with the Sacred Oils, every place wherein their voices may come may be set free from the temptations of the enemy and ever joined to the truth of the Catholic Faith. Through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

INCENSING OF THE BELLS

*The bells are now incensed, meanwhile the Cantors sing the Antiphon: Thy way, O God, is holy * who is so great a God as our God. and Psalm 77.*

Then is said:

Let us pray.

O CHRIST, Almighty Ruler, who didst once calm the stormy sea when awakened in the boat from the sleep of human nature, so hasten to the necessities of thy people and pour forth upon these bells the dew of thy Holy Spirit. Whenever they ring may the spirit of evil depart, may the Christian people practice their faith, may Satan's power over them be broken, and may they be strengthened in the Lord as they worship together. Let the Holy Spirit come down, as he did with gladness upon the playing of David's harp, and, as once with thunder a host of foes was dispersed as Samuel sacrificed to the Eternal King, so when the peal of these bells penetrates the clouds, may the Angelic legion guard the congress of thy worshippers. And let thy ever abiding protection grant health and salvation to all the Faithful. Through thee, O Christ Jesus, who with God the Father livest and reignest in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

S. Luke 10:38

AT THAT TIME: Jesus entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house; and she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving: and came to him and said: Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her: Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful. And Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

FINAL BLESSING

MAY the blessing of God the Father unbegotten, and of his only-begotten Son, and of the Holy Ghost from both proceeding, be ever upon these bells, that they may call the Faithful to divine worship, now and for ever. *Amen.*



NOTES

The ring of four bells which is being blessed to-day has come to us from S. James' Church, a redundant parish in Atlantic City. The Rt. Rev'd Albert Van Duzer, Sometime Bishop of New Jersey, is the consecrating prelate. The bells were cast at the McShane Foundry, Baltimore, in 1924. They are consecrated to the Glory of God with the following patronage:

<u>Bell</u>	<u>Patronage</u>	<u>Diameter</u>	<u>Weight</u>
d-sharp	Our Lady	51 1/16 in.	2830 lbs.
g-sharp	S. Clement	28 3/16 in.	1180 lbs.
a	S. Catherine	36 1/16 in.	990 lbs.
B (3)	S. James	32 1/8 in.	710 lbs.

It was a dream of Fr. FitzHugh, our late Rector, that someday Saint Clement's could make its presence in the neighbourhood known by the sounding of bells from its tower. Now, with the first anniversary of his death approaching on 12th October, this dream will have been fulfilled. Next week the bells will be hoisted into the tower and put into position. Then, electronic ringing mechanisms will be installed. We thank all those who through contributions to the Bell Fund have made this possible.

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There will be a reception followed by a luncheon at a nominal charge in the Parish House following this ceremony. All are invited to attend.

